

CLASSIFICATION

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR ERY, NMCC//ATTENTION
CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR [REDACTED]
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
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222

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: USSR--DEMICHEV SUCCEEDS FURTSEVA AS CULTURE MINISTER

REF: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

PRESS, UNCLASSIFIED;

B/A, CONF

THE APPOINTMENT ON NOVEMBER 14 OF CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER
PETR DEMICHEV AS MINISTER OF CULTURE TO SUCCEED YEKATERINA FURTSEVA
WHO DIED LATE LAST MONTH IS A SIGNAL THAT THE POLITBURO INTENDS TO
EXERCISE GREATER SCRUTINY OVER THE IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS THE
MAKING OF CULTUREAL POLICY.

AS PARTY SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF PROPAGANDA, CULTURE, AND PARTY
INDOCTRINATION, THE 56-YEAR-OLD DEMICHEV ~~WILL~~ TAKES OVER THE LESS
IMPORTANT GOVERNMENTAL POST IN A SECTOR WHICH HAS LONG BEEN HIS

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PARTY RESPONSIBILITY. PAST PRACTICE SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT DEMICHEV'S MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT WILL LEAD TO HIS EVENTUAL REMOVAL FROM THE SECRETARIAT. WHILE MEMBERS OF THE POLICY-MAKING POLITBURO MAY AND DO HOLD GOVERNMENT POSTS, MEMBERS OF THE POLICY-IMPLEMENTING SECRETARIAT DO NOT.

IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEMICHEV HAS GENERALLY BEEN A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN LEADERSHIP COUNCILS. IF HE IS REMOVED FROM THE SECRETARIAT, A HARDENING OF THE REGIME'S POSTURE IN THIS FIELD MAY BE IN THE CARDS.

THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH DEMICHEV'S PERFORMANCE AS OVERSEER OF PARTY IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION. SHORTCOMINGS IN THIS SECTOR HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN ISSUES OF THE HEAVILY PUBLICIZED IDEOLOGICAL VIGILANCE CAMPAIGN THAT HAS BEEN UNDER WAY SINCE LATE SUMMER.

HOW STERNLY THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL GUIDELINES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WOULD DEPEND IN LARGE PART ON WHO MIGHT BE CHOSEN TO REPLACE DEMICHEV ON THE SECRETARIAT. SUCH A PERSONNEL SHIFT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM.

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NORMALLY, PLENUMS TAKE PLACE TWICE A YEAR; THE LAST WAS HELD ON JULY 24.

DEMICHEV'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER COMES TWO DAYS AFTER THE LEADERSHIP WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO REAFFIRM PUBLICLY ITS DEVOTION TO CULTURAL ORTHODOXY. TEN MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP, EXCLUDING BREZHNEV BUT INCLUDING DEMICHEV, ATTENDED AN OFFICIAL ART SHOW IN MOSCOW ON NOVEMBER 11, WHERE THEY HEARD SENIOR PARTY SECRETARY FOR IDEOLOGY SUSLOV GIVE A LECTURE ON THE VIRTUES OF SOCIALIST REALISM. A PRAVDA EDITORIAL YESTERDAY CASTIGATED YOUNG ARTISTS WHO HAVE TOO NARROW A FOCUS AND WHO IGNORE "REAL" LIFE. E-2 IMPDET.H

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